

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/098,511
Response dated July 20, 2004
Reply to OA of April 20, 2004

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 12-20 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 5-7 and 9-11 as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A water purifier main body, including:

a raw water inlet;

a raw water supply inlet; and

a main body side coupling portion that couples to a water purifier filtration portion for filtering raw water flowing in from said raw water inlet at said raw water supply inlet in a detachable and attachable manner,

wherein said main body side coupling portion is provided with a main body side stopping member for coupling said water purifier filtration portion to said water purifier main body by stopping and being stopped by a filtration portion side stopping member provided to said water purifier filtration portion, and

wherein said main body side stopping member is provided to said main body side coupling portion in such a manner that said main body side stopping member and said filtration portion side stopping member are allowed to move relatively to each other ~~is allowed to move only~~ in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of said main body

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/098,511
Response dated July 20, 2004
Reply to OA of April 20, 2004

side coupling portion in a connection operation and a disconnection operation of said water purifier filtration portion and said water purifier main body.

Claim 2 (Original): The water purifier main body according to Claim 1, wherein:

said main body side stopping member is provided on a supporting member housed in said main body side coupling portion; and

said supporting member is sandwiched by a pair of outer edge portions provided to an inner wall of said main body side coupling portion to prevent said supporting member from moving in a flowing direction of the raw water passing by said main body side coupling portion in such a manner that said supporting member is allowed to slide in said one direction.

Claim 3 (Original): The water purifier main body according to Claim 2, wherein said supporting member is provided with a resilient body for pushing said supporting member when sliding in said one direction.

Claim 4 (Original): The water purifier main body according to Claim 2, wherein:

said main body side stopping member is a pillar-wise protrusion formed from a prism having a substantially trapezoidal surface as a bottom surface, said substantially trapezoidal surface protruding in an inward direction of said main body side coupling portion, so that a top side and a

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/098,511
Response dated July 20, 2004
Reply to OA of April 20, 2004

base side thereof are in parallel with said one direction and an oblique side thereof is positioned at a side of said water purifier filtration portion; and

said main body side stopping member is stopped by said filtration portion side stopping member formed from a prism, which is substantially identical with said main body side stopping member in shape and protrudes toward said water purifier filtration portion in a positional relation such that, at a beginning of the connection operation, said main body side stopping member and said filtration portion side stopping member touch with each other at their respective slanted surfaces each corresponding to the oblique side of said substantially trapezoidal surface.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The water purifier main body according to Claim 1, wherein said main body side coupling portion is provided with a main body side fitting member for preventing said main body side coupling portion from rotating around an axial core and fits in a filtration portion side fitting member provided to said water purifier filtration portion; ~~and is provided with a main body side fitting member for preventing said main body side coupling portion from rotating around an axial core.~~

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A water purifier filtration portion, including:

a raw water accepting inlet for accepting raw water from a water purifier main body;

a purified water outlet for releasing purified water to an outside; and

a filtration portion side coupling portion that couples to said water purifier main body at said raw water accepting inlet in a detachable and attachable manner,

wherein said filtration portion side coupling portion is provided with a filtration portion side stopping member for coupling said water purifier filtration portion to said water purifier main body by stopping and being stopped by a main body side stopping member provided to said water purifier main body, and

wherein said water purifier filtration portion is coupled to the water purifier main body by said filtration portion side stopping member in a detachable and attachable manner ,

wherein said water purifier main body includes said main body side coupling portion provided with the main body side stopping member for coupling said water purifier filtration portion to said water purifier main body by stopping and being stopped by the filtration portion side stopping member provided to said water purifier filtration portion, and

wherein said main body side stopping member is provided to said main body side coupling portion in such a manner that said main body side stopping member and said filtration portion side stopping member are allowed to move relatively to each other ~~is allowed to move only~~ in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of said main body side coupling portion in a connection operation and a disconnection operation of said water purifier filtration portion and said water purifier main body.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A water purifier filtration portion, including:

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/098,511
Response dated July 20, 2004
Reply to OA of April 20, 2004

a raw water accepting inlet for accepting raw water from a water purifier main body;
a purified water outlet for releasing purified water to an outside; and
a filtration portion side coupling portion that couples to said water purifier main body at said raw water accepting inlet in a detachable and attachable manner,

wherein said filtration portion side coupling portion is provided with a filtration portion side stopping member for coupling said water purifier filtration portion to said water purifier main body by stopping and being stopped by a main body side stopping member provided to said water purifier main body, and

wherein said filtration portion side stopping member is provided in such a manner that said filtration portion side stopping member and said main body side stopping member are allowed to move relatively to each other ~~is allowed to move only~~ in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of said filtration portion side coupling portion in a connection operation and a disconnection operation of said water purifier filtration portion and said water purifier main body.

Claim 8 (Original): The water purifier filtration portion according to Claim 7, wherein:

said filtration portion side stopping member is a pillar-wise protrusion formed from a prism having a substantially trapezoidal surface as a bottom surface, said substantially trapezoidal surface protruding outward at said raw water accepting inlet, so that a top side and a base side thereof are

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/098,511
Response dated July 20, 2004
Reply to OA of April 20, 2004

in parallel with said one direction and an oblique side thereof is positioned at a side of said water purifier main body; and

said filtration portion side stopping member is stopped by said main body side stopping member, which is substantially identical with said filtration portion side stopping member in shape and protrudes toward said water purifier main body in a positional relation such that, at a beginning of the connection operation, said main body side stopping member and said filtration portion side stopping member touch with each other at their respective slanted surfaces each corresponding to the oblique side of said substantially trapezoidal surface.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The water purifier filtration portion according to Claim 7, wherein said filtration portion side coupling portion is provided with a filtration portion side fitting member for preventing said filtration portion side coupling portion from rotating around an axial core and fits in a main body side fitting member provided to said water purifier main body, and is ~~provided with a filtration portion side fitting member for preventing said filtration portion side coupling portion from rotating around an axial core.~~

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A water purifier, including:

a water purifier main body ; and

a water purifier filtration portion coupled to said water purifier main body in a detachable and attachable manner,

wherein said water purifier main body is provided with
a raw water inlet;
a raw water supply inlet; and
a main body side coupling portion that couples to the water purifier filtration portion for filtering raw water flowing in from said raw water inlet at said raw water supply inlet in a detachable and attachable manner,

wherein said main body side coupling portion is provided with a main body side stopping member for coupling said water purifier filtration portion to said water purifier main body by stopping and being stopped by a filtration portion side stopping member provided to said water purifier filtration portion, and

wherein said main body side stopping member is provided to said main body side coupling portion in such a manner that said main body side stopping member and said filtration portion side stopping member are allowed to move relatively to each other ~~is allowed to move only~~ in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of said main body side coupling portion in a connection operation and a disconnection operation of said water purifier filtration portion and said water purifier main body.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A water purifier, including:

a water purifier filtration portion; and

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/098,511
Response dated July 20, 2004
Reply to OA of April 20, 2004

a water purifier main body coupled to said water purifier filtration portion in a detachable and attachable manner,

wherein said water purifier filtration portion includes :

a raw water accepting inlet for accepting raw water from the water purifier main body;

a purified water outlet for releasing purified water to an outside; and

a filtration portion side coupling portion that couples to said water purifier main body at said raw water accepting inlet in a detachable and attachable manner,

wherein said filtration portion side coupling portion is provided with a filtration portion side stopping member for coupling said water purifier filtration portion to said water purifier main body by stopping and being stopped by a main body side stopping member provided to said water purifier main body, and

wherein said filtration portion side stopping member is provided in such a manner that said filtration portion side stopping member and said main body side stopping member are allowed to move relatively to each other ~~is allowed to move only~~ in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of said filtration portion side coupling portion in a connection operation and a disconnection operation of said water purifier filtration portion and said water purifier main body.

Claims 12-20 (Canceled).